

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-27, and 29-32 are pending in the instant application. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-27, and 29-32 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Jenkins et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0188499. Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested. The present submission is provided in conjunction with a Request for Continued Examination and Declaration under 37 CFR 1.114, a Declaration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.131, and a Petition under 37 CFR 1.47(a), copies of which are enclosed. The Applicants swear behind the Jenkins reference and submit herewith a Declaration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.131 in support. In particular, the Declaration demonstrates conception and reduction to practice of the Applicants' invention prior to the critical date of the Jenkins reference. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the instant application is patentable over the Jenkins reference rendering moot the outstanding rejections of claims 1-5, 7-15, 17-27, and 29-32. For at least this reason, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the instant application is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this application be allowed and a Notice of Allowance issued. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicant's attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is cordially requested to telephone the undersigned.

In the event the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks deems additional fees to be due in connection with this application, Applicant's attorney hereby authorizes that such fee be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

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